

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /096 W
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV KS
SUBJ: ROK APARTMENT SCANDAL: PRESS REACTION

REF: SEOUL 5801 (DTG 051808Z JUL 78)

1. WHEN APARTMENT SCANDAL BROKE, MAJOR DAILIES RAN PARTICULARLY STRONGLY-WORDED EDITORIALS, ATTACKING NOT ONLY THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, BUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN GENERAL.

2. PAPERS CHARACTERIZED ROKG'S ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE AS HAVING EFFECTED ONLY LOWER-RANKING OFFICIALS..."IT SHOWS THAT RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN TOUCHED". TONGA ILBO ASKED "HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE THAT SUCH PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CONTROVERSIAL APARTMENT SCANDAL WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION RENOVATION CAMPAIGN WAS BEING PUSHED SO RIGOROUSLY?" MORE THAN ONE EDITORIAL QUOTED KOREAN PROVERB, "DIRTY WATER UPSTREAM SPOILS THE WATER DOWNSTREAM."

3. GENERALIZING FROM APARTMENT SCANDAL, PAPERS ACCUSED
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POLICY MAKERS OF BEING INSENSITIVE TO PROBLEMS AFFECTING ORDINARY PEOPLE. "IF THE POLICY MAKERS DO NOT PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE THE DIFFICULTIES, THEY WILL NEVER KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SUCH PROBLEMS. THIS SITUATION IS NOT LIMITED TO APARTMENT PROBLEMS. RANKING OFFICIALS WHO ONLY RIDE PRIVATE CARS WILL HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACUTE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE COMMON PEOPLE IN THE

TRAFFIC HELL".

4. SOME EDITORIALS SPOKE OF EXISTENCE OF A PRIVILEGED CLASS ("THE RICH GETTING RICHER") AND NOTED PUBLIC'S ALIENATION FROM OFFICE HOLDERS: "THESE PRACTICES WILL INCREASE THE PEOPLE'S ANGER, HATRED AND CONTEMPT FOR THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE."

5. MARKEDLY STRONGER IN TONE THAN PREVIOUS PRESS HANDLING OF CORRUPTION ISSUE, THESE EARLY EDITORIALS LIKELY REFLECTED INDEPENDENT PRESS COMMENTARY, RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED LINE. IN PAST FEW DAYS, PRESS HAS CHANGED COURSE AND NOW DEALS MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH APARTMENT SCANDAL AND THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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